



# MPs draft £3.3bn package to help long-term jobless

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

A radical £3.3 billion package of measures to tackle long-term unemployment, including a specific job guarantee, will be unveiled today by the Commons Select Committee on Employment.

The MPs' proposals, contained in a unanimous report, come only days after the announcement of Britain's worst jobless figures. Of those out of work, 1,500,000 have been unemployed for more than a year and count as long-term unemployed.

In a three-pronged attack aimed at achieving a job guarantee for such people, the committee recommends:

- A new building improvement scheme to provide 300,000 extra year-long jobs.
- The employment of 100,000 in the social services and the National Health Service.
- The introduction of a subsidy to private employers to take on 350,000 long-term unemployed in addition to existing employees.

The all-party committee also looked at the alternatives of tax cuts and increased public expenditure in dealing with high unemployment, but it concluded that special

employment measures were the "best buy" for the Government.

In particular the new measures are intended to lower the jobless figures in the short term in a cost-effective way, while other policies take effect and help them eventually to find permanent jobs.

The MPs envisage their proposals could be put into effect over three years and provide 750,000 extra places. The scheme should be run by the Manpower Services Commission, they say.

The proposed building improvement programme, which is similar to suggestions made by the Confederation of British Industry, would provide a wage of up to £105 a week. The MPs noted that many of the areas of highest long-term unemployment are also the most physically derelict.

It is estimated the new building jobs would cost between £4,000 and £5,000 a head.

With health and personal social services being labour intensive, the MPs recommend 50,000 long-term unemployed could be found work in each sector. Recruits

would be given a normal employment contract for one year and be paid at an average rate of £120 a week.

Lastly the committee suggests a subsidy of £40 a week to private sector employers who take on long-term unemployed. For £1.4 billion about 350,000 new jobs would be created, at a cost per job of £4,000.

The launch of today's report is likely to be clouded by the refusal of Mr Ron Leighton, the Labour chairman, to answer questions from News International journalists, as he is sponsored by the print union, Sogat '82.

● Fifteen hundred jobs at the Kem coalfield's three threatened pits could be saved because of a plan put to the unions yesterday (the Press Association reports).

The scheme lifted the closure threat over Tilmanstone colliery, after a significant rise in production figures.

In December the National Coal Board announced that another pit, Betteshanger, had been revived. Now the board wants talks to extend the life of the third pit, Snowdown.

# Counting the legal cost of divorce

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Divorced couples were warned by two Court of Appeal judges yesterday of the dangers of amassing a large legal aid bill by arguing in the courts over who should get what from the proceeds of a broken marriage.

The court was told the Legal Aid Fund has a prior claim on family assets and, at the end of the day, that can seriously deplete available funds.

The warning came from Lord Justice Purchas and Mrs Justice Butler-Sloss in a divorce case estimated to have incurred legal costs of about £23,000.

The divorced couple, who both received legal aid for their courtroom conflict, will have to reimburse the Legal Aid Fund, leaving them with less than half of the £43,000 in assets available at the time of the marriage break-up.

Lord Justice Purchas said the case was typical of many in which already-modest family assets were "seriously depleted" by the cost of litigation.

"It is imperative that litigants who receive assistance under the legal aid scheme

should fully understand the danger of this when deciding to pursue contentious matters", the judge said.

The judges upheld an earlier court ruling that Mr Keith Mason, a joinery manufacturer, of New Yatt Road, North Leigh, Witney, Oxfordshire, should pay his former wife, Jacqueline, of Woodside, North Leigh, an end-of-marriage settlement of £27,000.

They ruled that if Mr Mason cannot raise the money within six months, his house, the former matrimonial home val-

ued at £53,000, should be sold to raise the money.

Settlement of the mortgage loan will leave about £43,000. But before the couple receive any money themselves, legal costs of £12,550 for Mrs Mason and £10,400 for Mr Mason will have to be paid.

Lord Justice Purchas said the judge who originally heard the case had commented that, if the parties had settled their differences, the sale of the house would have provided sufficient cash to comfortably reimburse both.

gynecologist  
mothers  
danger.

## Survey for the Briton on holiday

By Derek Harris

Most complaints about package holidays concern hotels but 94 per cent of British holidaymakers last year were prepared to recommend their hotel to family or friends.

Those findings emerged from a survey by Lann Poly, the travel agency chain which is part of Thomson Travel.

Holidaymakers were particularly concerned about food, the location, and whether the hotel staff were friendly and helpful. Britons preferred self-service meals and disliked sharing tables with strangers.

They also objected to dining room queues, the high cost of drinks in hotel bars, having to pay for hotel loungers, and did not favour entertainment that lasted beyond midnight in a hotel's public rooms.

The best hotels in the eyes of holidaymakers were not necessarily the high class ones on the most expensive, according to Mr John MacNeill, Lann Poly's managing director.

He said that some of the most highly rated hotels were in the budget category.

The study was made for the company's latest free Guide to Good Hotels.

## No prosecution in police assault

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Metropolitan Police officers who assaulted five youths, two of whom needed hospital treatment, will not be prosecuted or disciplined.

Describing the attack by unidentified officers as "disgraceful", the Police Complaints Authority said yesterday: "Despite the most thorough investigation, it has not been possible to establish the required standard of proof which of three Transit vans conveying officers in the area at the time was involved."

Because of the lack of proof of identity the Director of Public Prosecutions did not consider that criminal proceedings could be taken. Mr Peter Imbert, the deputy commissioner, said that for the same reason he did not propose to bring disciplinary charges.

At the authority's request, the officers on duty in all three vans in the area at the time, apart from two who

have retired, were paraded before Mr Bob Innes, the deputy assistant commissioner.

The complaints authority said: "They were told in no uncertain terms of the anger and disquiet felt about the incident. They were told that although officers in only one of the vans were involved, all the officers in that van must have known what happened and both the public and the Metropolitan Police regard such actions as outrageous."

Also at the suggestion of the complaints authority, the police have agreed to clearly mark about 570 vehicles, including all Transit vans, for ready identification.

Two brothers, Baltimore and Eric Ranger, aged 16 and 17, who claimed they were beaten by between 10 and 12 uniformed police officers in the Holloway Road area of London in April 1983, received £4,000 in an out-of-court settlement last April.

## £21m more to protect 9,000 poly places

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The Government is expected to announce today that it may give an extra £21 million to the polytechnics to protect 9,000 student places which might otherwise have been lost.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is writing to the National Advisory Body, which supervises public sector higher education, to say it

can expect a 3.5 per cent increase in its funding for 1987-88.

That should give the polytechnics half of the extra £42 million which they say they need in 1987-88, a possible election year, to avoid losing 18,000 student places.

Mr John Bevan, secretary of the body, said that the extra money was not yet guaranteed.

## M25 progress

The section of the M25 from Swanley to Sevenoaks will open on Wednesday February 19, completing the southern ring around London and linking Heathrow and Gatwick airports to the Dartford Tunnel. The final section of the motorway, in Hertfordshire, will open in November.

### Speculation on foreign control of vehicle makers

## Morale crumbles in British car firms

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Months of speculation and rumour suggesting that BL's commercial vehicle operations are being sold to General Motors of America and that Honda Japan is about to buy a stake in Austin Rover cars are seriously undermining morale in both companies.

A Leyland trucks executive said yesterday: "The talks with GM have been dragging on for so long that people here are beginning to have doubts about their future yet again. We urgently need an announcement to put an end to this damaging speculation."

Austin Rover's worries are even longer standing. Since January 1985 when Honda bought a 33.0-acre site at Swindon there have been

persistent reports that the Government was encouraging Honda to acquire control of its state-owned car maker.

These reports intensified a few months later when leaks allegedly from the Prime Minister's office, raised doubts about Austin Rover's ability to survive without relinquishing large parts of its business to Honda.

Swindon is being developed as a Honda distribution and parts centre and rumours persist that it will eventually become a manufacturing plant.

In Tokyo yesterday Honda again denied that it had any plans to acquire all or part of Austin Rover.

A view being increasingly voiced at all levels in Austin Rover is that it has become an embarrassment to the Government, which is pledged to privatize it during

the present Parliament. The is not returning to profits fast enough to be sold on the open market like Jaguar, nor is it making such a hash of things that the Government has an excuse to close it down.

Seen against that background a takeover by Honda or even a substantial shareholding would seem to offer a way out.

Land Rover/Leyland, the commercial vehicle side, has been losing money for years. But more recently there have been some encouraging signs.

Leyland looks attractive to GM for two reasons. In recent years it has launched a complete new range of trucks at a cost to the taxpayer of £350 million. This contrasts with the out-dated range of trucks sold by Bedford, GM's European trucks subsidiary. Leyland has also recently

## Liverpool rates appeal begins in High Court

The 48 Liverpool councillors facing dismissal over the £106,000 bill for lost rates because of their alleged "wilful misconduct" launched their appeal for survival in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Stephen Sedley, QC, for the councillors, told Lord Justice Glidewell, sitting with Mr Justice Caulefield and Mr Justice Russell in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court that the councillors had used their "honest efforts" to secure the three Es: economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.

He said that Parliament could not have intended that to mean wilful misconduct.

Mr Derek Harton, Liverpool's deputy leader, was in court as the appeal began against the decision of the District Auditor to make the 48 personally responsible for the shortfall caused by the delay in setting a rate.

Last week the judges reserved judgement in a similar appeal by 32 rebel Lambeth Labour councillors, said to owe more than £126,000.

Judgement in both cases will be given after the Liverpool case.

Among those in court to support the councillors were Mr Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton, and Mr Tony Mulhearn, the District Labour Party president.

## Laity outside Church 'must not be ignored'

Those outside the institutionally-minded or church-going community should not have their views excluded from the inner deliberations of the Church, the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, said yesterday.

Addressing the centenary meeting of the House of Laity of the General Synod of the Church of England, Dr Habgood said they should not forget the "world-oriented Christians" who may simply be too busy to involve themselves in the Church's internal life, but who were the Church's "eyes and ears and hands".

He was speaking to an

## Man charged with murder of hotelier

David Wyn Roberts, aged 31, of no fixed address was yesterday remanded in custody by Kendal magistrates, charged with the murder of Mrs Bronwen Nixon, a Lake District hotelier.

He was remanded until Friday when he will appear at Windermere Magistrates' Court.

Mrs Nixon, aged 66, was strangled in her cottage next to the Rothay Manor Hotel, Ambleside, on January 19.

## Youth accused of Brixton riots killing

A youth of 18 was accused at Camberwell Magistrates' Court yesterday of killing David George Hodge, aged 29, a freelance photographer, who died from head injuries after last September's Brixton riots.

Erroy Palmer, described as a security officer, of Effra Parade, Brixton, was remanded in custody until February 19.



## Nona Thomas is incurable. She's learning to swim.

Nona Thomas was training as a nurse when illness forced her to change her profession. Eventually, even running a little knitting wool shop proved too much and she now lives at the RHHI, confined to a wheelchair. Nona suffers from Spinal Muscular Atrophy which restricts her very severely, but she doesn't let these limitations beat her. She's often in the patients' kitchen,

making tempting titties for everyone, or in the occupational therapy room, trying her hand at pottery or painting. She's even learning to swim in the hydrotherapy pool despite her fear of water and she goes on outings whenever possible.

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سكزا من الاصل





# Aden carnage survivor tells of party leaders' execution

From Robert Fisk, Aden

Ali Salem al-Beedh sat on a low sofa, grinning and constantly clutching a brown walking stick in his left hand. Where was he wounded, we asked, and he grinned, pulled up his shirt and patted the blue T-shirt which covered his stomach.

It was, in fact, a little worse than that. Ali Salem's would-be assassins had shot him in the thigh and lower abdomen after the original murder attempt at the Politburo on January 13.

He had escaped President Ali Nasser Muhammad's South Yemeni Politburo liquidation with two colleagues, Abdul Fatah Ismael — one of the leading figures in the anti-British struggle of the 1960s — and Salem Saleh Muhammad, a secretary of the Central Committee. All three, he said, had been rescued by the Army. But where, we asked, was Abdul Fatah Ismael now?

"I withdrew with him (after the shooting) at 7 o'clock on January 13," he said. "But I escaped on one tank and he escaped on another."

All that is known, therefore, is that Mr Ali Salem and Mr Salem Saleh Muhammad are the sole surviving members of the old 11-strong Politburo in Aden and the only ones wielding power. Three were killed on January 13, four fled with Mr Ali Nasser Muhammad, and one, Mr Abdul Fatah Ismael, is missing.

Mr Ali Salem al-Beedh sipped a glass of water on his sofa. He liked to talk about his life. He was 46, married with eight children, himself "a struggle" in the war against the British. A Hadrami man with long, dark hair, he smiled a lot.

Did the foreign journalists have any questions? There were a few. Were these battles in Aden not, perhaps, just tribal warfare? Ali Salem chuckled softly at so preposterous a notion.

"The fact is," he said, "that Ali Nasser did not believe in socialism." "Our differences with him were well known — there was tension even before the third conference of our party. For the sake of the national interest, we tried to sacrifice so many things for unity. But who would have thought Ali Nasser would try to kill us?"

Ali Salem chose not to elaborate on just what the "tensions and differences" were with Ali Nasser — "ideological, social questions," he would only say, but he insisted that "the Soviet stand is with the Yemeni Socialist Party."

As for Mr Ali Nasser Muhammad, Ali Salem evinced astonishment that the former President could even contemplate the murder of his party colleagues. "It was a crime against the party and the reputation of our revolution," he said.

But had not Ali Nasser been elected by the party? Had he not been Prime Minister as well as President — and for a long time? "That was our mistake," Ali Salem replied. And this time, he did not smile.



Mr Carl McNair, brother of Ronald McNair, who was killed in the Challenger shuttle disaster, being comforted by his wife at a South Carolina memorial service

# Reagan starts spending cuts

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan has given the go-ahead for the first round of \$11.4 billion (£3.14 billion) in automatic spending cuts, while holding fast to his demand for defence spending increases, domestic budget cuts and no tax increases to reduce the deficit.

Standing firm in the face of pressure from his own party for an early compromise on this year's contentious budget, Mr Reagan said in his weekly radio broadcast that any tax increase Congress sent to him would be "DOA — dead on arrival."

He announced that the spending cuts for the current fiscal year, mandated by the Gramm-Rudman Balanced Budget legislation, will take effect on March 1, unless they are successfully challenged in court. They represent a 4.3 per cent cut for domestic agencies and a 4.9 per cent cut for defence.

Mr Reagan said that passage of the Gramm-Rudman law was "an admission by Congress that zero hour is upon us". He insisted that government services could be maintained, but complained that the budget savings made no distinction between high-priority programmes and those of little merit.

Both Congress and the Administration have resigned themselves to this first swing of the Gramm-Rudman budget axe.

The real fight will come over next year's budget, when more swinging cuts will be needed. The President is to submit his spending plan tomorrow, and Congress is hoping that last year's protracted and bruising budget fight can be avoided.

Senate Republicans have circulated a letter urging the President to act on deficit reduction before tax reform. The party leadership has, at meetings pressed on him the need not to wait until August or September before compromising on the budget.

# South Africa inquiry Commonwealth's team to start on apartheid report

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Two senior Commonwealth officials have left London for Cape Town to prepare the way for the first visit to South Africa later this month by members of the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons to promote a "dialogue for democracy" between the South African authorities and representative black leaders.

The Commonwealth has opted for a phased approach in carrying out its delicate and difficult mission.

The first phase will take place later this month when three of the seven-member group — Mr Malcolm Fraser, the former Prime Minister of Australia, General Olusegun Obasanjo, the former President of Nigeria and Dame Nita Barrow, a president of the World Council of Churches — hold a preliminary round of talks with black and white South African leaders. Their visit, preceded by a meeting of the full group in London, will begin on February 15.

Depending on the outcome the second phase will occur later in the spring when the full group will descend on South Africa for further talks before reporting to the Commonwealth on progress in dismantling apartheid.

The decision to set up the Commonwealth group was taken at the organization's summit meeting in Nassau last October as part of a compromise to prevent a split between Britain and the rest of the Commonwealth on the question of economic sanctions against South Africa.

The group has until June to assess progress towards removing apartheid and the effectiveness of the political and constitutional reforms which President Botha has announced in recent months, most notably in his speech in Parliament last Friday.

The Commonwealth has warned it will consider imposing new restrictive measures on South Africa — such as banning flights to and from South Africa or boycotting its agricultural produce — if it is not satisfied that the apartheid barriers are beginning to come down.

As part of its carrot-and-stick approach to South Africa, the Commonwealth has also called on the Pretoria Government to take a number of actions, including promoting a political dialogue with black leaders, lifting the state of emergency, lifting the ban on the African National Congress and releasing Mr Nelson Mandela.

One of the first points which the Commonwealth officials must establish is exactly to whom the group will be able to talk and who is prepared to talk to them.

Much will depend on whether or not the Commonwealth team is allowed to talk to Mr Mandela. So far the South African Government has given no undertaking beyond saying that it is prepared to consider ways of facilitating the group's work.

CAPE TOWN: Mrs Winnie Mandela yesterday contemptuously rejected the proposal by President Botha to free her husband in exchange for a South African soldier captured in Angola and two Soviet dissidents (Reuters reports).

Lasaka meeting, page 8

# Party officials accused Moscow steps up corruption war

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

There are increasing signs that the Kremlin's new drive against corruption, inefficiency and excessive secrecy in Soviet public life, is being intensified in the run-up to the crucial 27th Communist Party congress which opens here on February 25.

Reporting the local party congress in the southern Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, the official party newspaper Pravda yesterday disclosed that Mr Farkhad Sahmanov, the republic's former minister for the cotton-cleaning industry, had recently been brought to trial on charges of corruption and misuse of power.

Mr Sahmanov, who was sacked as minister last December after holding the post for five years, was one of a number of senior Soviet officials accused publicly of the compass of recent failings. In keeping with the nationwide drive to clean up the administration, Mr Kyzymran Bagirov, the local party chief, admitted to delegates that he shared some of the blame for not weeding out more corrupt officials and remedying inefficiency.

Pravda had on Sunday accused a number of former senior officials in the central Asian republic of Uzbekistan — one of the most notoriously corrupt areas of the Soviet Union — of being "state criminals".

The attack arose out of the party's five-yearly congress in the republic, part of preparations for the national meeting, which will be attended by 5,000 delegates. Pravda disclosed that the Uzbek party had accused several officials of corrupt practices on a vast scale.

The paper said distortion of statistics, embezzlement and bribery had become widespread in the republic, and that falsified figures and miscalculations had led to serious problems in the region's economy. Most of those singled out for denunciation were figures who held power during the Brezhnev era.

Western observers described the criticism and other widespread moves against corrupt, inefficient and elderly officials as part of a process of "ideological-Brezhnevization" ordered personally by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader.

Late last month, the former boss of the influential Moscow city Communist Party — also one-time associates of Brezhnev — were subjected to a savage public harangue by the city's tough new Siberian-born party chief, Mr Boris Yeltsin, aged 55, a strong supporter of Mr Gorbachev's new policy of "social discipline".

Mr Yeltsin's outspoken indictment of incompetence, corrupt practices and administrative remoteness in the capital was remarkable not only for the directness of language but also because his predecessor for 18 years, Mr Viktor Grishin, was sitting in



Mr Grishin: likely to lose Politburo seat

the audience to hear it being made.

Mr Grishin, once known for his closeness to Brezhnev, is confidently expected to lose his seat on the ruling Politburo by the end of the congress. He had to sit stony-faced at the meeting of the city party organization through repeated condemnation of, among other things, fraud, bad transport, rude shop assistants and open corruption in the city's hospitals.

Another aspect of Soviet life singled out for criticism in the run-up to the congress has been excessive secrecy. On Saturday, the official paper *Sovietkaya Rossiya*, which has been in the vanguard of the Kremlin drive for more openness, attacked the secretive style of work of local Communist Party committees.

It alleged this was largely responsible for the unfounded rumours which frequently circulate like wildfire throughout the Soviet Union.

# 90 Tamil rebels die in pitched battles

Colombo (Reuters) - The Government has appealed for help from Buddhist monks to solve Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict after at least 90 Tamil rebels were reported killed in weekend battles with security forces.

President Jayewardene, speaking at a Buddhist ceremony at Wathurwila near Colombo, asked monks to propose a strategy based on "non-violence".

At least 60 guerrillas fighting for a separate Tamil state were killed in pitched battles at Kilinochchi in Northern Province, security sources said. A curfew was imposed on the area.

Thirty rebels were killed in Eastern Province when land, sea and air forces stormed a guerrilla stronghold.

Mr Jayewardene had been due this week to discuss the violence with Mr Romesh Bhandari, a senior Indian Foreign Ministry official, but the talks have been postponed.

The Indian High Commission in Colombo said that Mr Bhandari's visit was put off "owing to unforeseen developments" and fresh dates would be announced. It did not elaborate.

Reports from India said that Mr Bhandari had reached Madras, where he had talks with Tamil leaders, on his way to Colombo before the visit was called off.

● Kidnapped Briton: A senior official of the British High Commission in Colombo has flown to Jaffna in Northern Province to help with the release of the kidnapped British freelance journalist, Mrs Penelope Willis (Vijitha Yapa writes). Mrs Willis, aged 64, was kidnapped by Tamil guerrillas of the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students (Eros) on January 17 at Mullativu in north-eastern Sri Lanka. The guerrillas accuse her of being a spy.

On Sunday they released a five-page document in which they said that Mrs Willis had seen a number of people involved with security in Colombo. They also released a photocopy of an identity card showing that she is a member of the Royal United Service Institution for Defence Studies.

# Omani pitfalls of marriage to foreigners

Muscat, Oman (AP) — Omani citizens who marry foreigners will be stripped of their nationality, the Ministry of the Interior has announced.

The announcement accepted from the punishment citizens marrying nationals from any of the six countries that make up the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar.

The Interior Minister, Mr Badr bin Saud bin Hareb, told reporters the ruling was in line with an amendment of the Nationality Law, which went into effect on February 1.

Omanis who married foreigners would be violating the new law, and stood to lose their nationality and forfeit the right of their children to Omani citizenship.

He listed "three specific circumstances" in which Omanis could marry foreigners — people over the age of 60, disabled persons and people marrying citizens from the other GCC states.

# Romania puts lock on dissident typewriters

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Forced to endure shortages of food and fuel unparalleled in Eastern Europe, long-suffering Romanians must now subject their typewriters to the rigours of bureaucracy.

Typewriter owners who do not register their machines with the police will face stiff fines and risk having their machines confiscated, Romanian newspapers warned.

The warning was part of a well-orchestrated press campaign to enforce a law passed in 1983 banning the possession of unlicensed typewriters in Romania.

The law, also prohibiting private ownership of telex machines and photocopiers, has been enforced more in recent months following an increased circulation of Hungarian dissident material in Transylvania and the Banat in western Romania.

The official Romanian daily in Timisoara this week printed instructions on how to register typewriters, saying owners would also have to sign an undertaking that under no circumstances would their machines be lent or hired to anyone else.

# Hungarians hit bottle

Vienna — Hungarians lead the world as consumers of hard spirits, the Hungarian daily *Magyar Hirlap* reported yesterday (Richard Bassett writes).

Last year the average Hungarian consumed 4.8 litres of spirits as well as 89 litres of beer and 33 litres of wine.

Hungary, unlike any other country in Central Europe, has unlimited access, at reasonable prices, to some of the best alcohol produced on either side of the Iron Curtain: beer from Bohemia, wine from Tokay and whiskey and gin from the west.

The report said Hungarians on average spend more than a tenth of their monthly income on alcohol.

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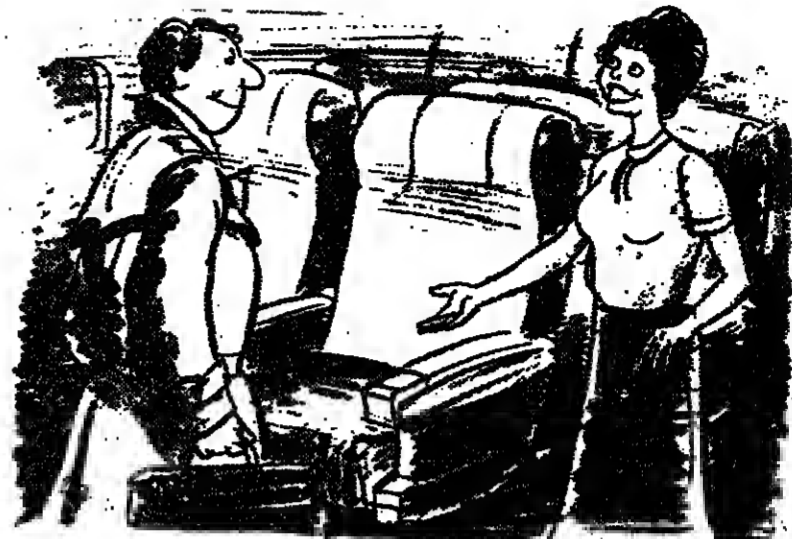
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مكتبة من الأصل

# Day of truth for González over Spanish poll on Nato

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid

Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, goes before Parliament today to defend his decision to hold a referendum on membership of Nato after hesitation and confusion that has damaged his image and strained the unity of his party and the trade unions.

When a centre-right government in Madrid took Spain into Nato in 1982, it calculated that the Socialists would never be able to take the country out again. It may still prove to have been right, but it reckoned without Señor González, then leader of the Opposition.

To ensure enough votes for victory in the general election that autumn, he inserted into the party manifesto a promise to hold a referendum on future membership if he won. Today that commitment catches up with him.

With the Socialist MPs' discipline and their big majority, there is no doubt that the referendum for March 12 will go through, but the three-day debate signals the opening of a campaign full of risks for the Government to convince Spaniards, and especially Socialist supporters, to vote "Yes", overcoming a powerful tradition of non-involvement in Spain.

Citizens will be asked now to approve Spain in the Atlantic Alliance (not "Nato", which has strong emotional overtones) provided, as the González Government now requires of its Nato partners, there is no integration in Nato's military commands, non-nuclear status for Spain, and a progressive reduction by the United States of its forces here.

But the Opposition, led by Señor Manuel Fraga, has got itself in an equal fix. Really wanting full integration, Señor Fraga will nevertheless urge his supporters to abstain. The aim is to invalidate the referendum, nicknamed by the Opposition "confoundendum". Yet the

Government maintains that it is "unserious" about leaving the alliance if it loses. Privately, managers of Spain's two main parties admit that, on Nato, they do not control their own followers. Party membership of both accounts, anyway, for less than 400,000 of more than 27 million people eligible to vote.

All the polls show Spaniards widely divided on Nato, with many still undecided. The Spanish press hardly helps. It sees the Nato debate not as an opportunity for educating the public about world realities after decades of isolation, but to parade ideological differences.

Spain's bishops, divided over Nato, have been obliged to tell Roman Catholics that they must vote "no conscience". This will hurt Señor Fraga.

Spanish industrialists know that their country's high-technology needs require Spain to be in Nato. Señor Narcis Serra, the Defence Minister, has emphasized this, but has told the service chiefs to stay out of the referendum debate.

The Nato issue is more complex in Spain than in other European countries. Public opinion reflects the same worries about the risks of involvement in nuclear mass destruction. But anti-Nato sentiment also stems from Spanish history. As Señor González has put it: "The United States never liberated us from Franco but helped him stay in power after World War II."

To galvanize the reluctant working-class vote, Señor González has mobilized party members now holding public office. Their jobs, and his, are on the line, he has warned. The Government's problems give a golden opportunity to the Communists to seek to recover their ascendancy over the left, and they are behind big demonstrations planned throughout the referendum run-up.

# First 100 days' rule outlined by Aquino

From David Watts Manila

In a packed hotel ballroom, Mrs Corason Aquino, the opposition presidential candidate, yesterday outlined her programme for the first 100 days of rule in the Philippines, with an emphasis on eliminating traces of the "Pharaoh" who had enslaved the country for 20 years, her opponent President Marcos.

Mrs Aquino received a rapturous response to what is likely to be her main campaign statement. For most of the time she sounded like the victor already acknowledging success, a device clearly intended to convince the many waverers within the ruling New Society Movement that there is no stopping her bandwagon. She was repeatedly interrupted by applause in an address full of purple passages about the "pyramid of disgrace" that President Marcos had built.

Mrs Aquino promised to dismantle the monopoly hold that friends of Mr Marcos have over the coconut and sugar industry. She also plans to negotiate better terms for the Philippines foreign debt of \$25.6 billion (£18.2 billion) and the postponement of import liberalization measures.



Mrs Corason Aquino, the opposition's candidate in the Philippines presidential election, at lunch in Manila.

# Marcos still holds all the aces to preserve dynasty

In his second article on the Philippines presidential election, DAVID WATTS reports from Manila on the likely outcome and post-election prospects.

President Ferdinand Marcos is not in the habit of losing elections.

Until the 1984 parliamentary elections, he looked almost unassailable. But that election proved that where the opposition could monitor the count and ensure its version of the tally got out quickly to the public, government manipulation of the results could be limited.

Since then the emotive figure of Mrs Corason Aquino has become a powerful symbol of the opposition; so powerful that Mr Marcos tried to persuade the Supreme Court to declare the election unconstitutional. He failed, but that does not mean he will not find some other way to maintain the influence of the Marcos family should the polls go against him on Friday.

His options are almost limitless because of his power to change the composition of the New Society Movement (NSM) ticket until noon of election day.

Both sides know that history is coming to the boil. At risk for the Marcos clan is the future of its dynasty. For the opposition and the

public at large, this may be the last opportunity both for peaceful change and to prevent what could develop into an irrevocable slide into a people's democratic republic. Reviewing the spectrum of Filipino opinion, it is hard to find a sector of society that is



PHILIPPINES ELECTIONS Part 2

not ready for change. The business sector was one of the first to come out against Mr Marcos. Electioneering tithes, like promises to reduce interest rates and a cut in the price of petrol, have not been enough to change many minds so far.

The strength of Mrs Aquino's following in Manila is somewhat taken for granted, but appearances can be misleading. Last week in the capital, two polls were taken among students at the middle class Jose Rizal College. In the first, a show-of-hands ballot, Mrs Aquino was an 80-20 winner, but in a secret ballot it was much closer at 60-40.

This false band-wagon effect may go some way to discount opposition claims about the size of its plurality. More sensitive is the attitude of the military and of the small reform movement within it whose dislike of Mr Marcos is already well known.

The military has by and large stayed out of Filipino politics and the American revelations about the faked elements of Mr Marcos's war record have embarrassed and dishonoured it. But the real test of the military's loyalty may come after the election if an unpopular Marcos victory brings unrest and an order to suppress it.

Two other clear stances, one foreign and one domestic, make Mr Marcos's position increasingly precarious: the US Government has indicated it is time for a change of leader and so has the Roman Catholic Church. Never before has the Church, which has great influence in the Philippines, come out with such a forceful and unified message: without naming her, it clearly indicates its preference for Mrs Aquino.

It is not clear whether all this will be sufficient to give Mrs Aquino victory. As the opposition says, she may win the vote but Mr Marcos may win the count. If that proves true, the immediate future is bleak.

Concluded

# PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE Philippines: Alberto de la Cruz

By Caroline Moorehead

Alberto de la Cruz is a farmer and traditional healer. Some time in the early summer of 1982 he was among at least 26 people, most of them farmers and members of rural self-help groups, who were arrested in the Balababan and Asturias areas of Cebu and charged with rebellion as alleged members of the New People's Army - the armed branch of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Rural organizations are frequently accused of involvement with the NPA, which is active in the countryside. All but five of the original 26 prisoners are reported to have obtained their release by pleading guilty. One died. Alberto de la Cruz and the three others who first came to trial later in 1982 are said to have been intimidated into confessing involvement with the NPA, but all four have since retracted their statements. They remain in jail.

Despite pressure on them to plead guilty, they have written to friends: "We are prepared to sacrifice the rest of our lives rather than plead guilty. God knows that we are innocent."



Alberto de la Cruz: charged with rebellion.

# Advice on a loveless marriage

Peking (UPI) - Chinese newspaper readers are urging a 39-year-old woman who refuses to grant her husband a divorce after 13 years of sexless, loveless marriage to face reality and "look for new love", according to the official China Daily.

Both the woman and her husband have threatened to commit suicide if they lose the divorce case - but the Chinese public has so far largely sided with the husband.

"The relationship deteriorated when the wife suffered from an illness which ended their sex life and shattered their hopes of having a child," China Daily said.

The couple lived together "without sex or mutual affection" for 13 years. The husband finally filed for divorce in 1983, over his wife's violent objection. She later agreed to divorce him, but only if he paid her 30,000 yuan, or £6,400.

In letters to China Daily, readers urged the woman to "face reality, to try to break out of the tragedy and to look for new love."

# Pack ice halts Greenpeace plan for base

Sydney (Reuters) - The Greenpeace Antarctic expedition was heading for New Zealand yesterday after abandoning equipment for a planned base camp because of impenetrable pack ice, the expedition director said.

"We simply can't get in - it's unsafe," Mr Peter Wilkinson said.

The 35-man crew had hoped to reach a site on Ross Island to unload equipment and supplies after thick ice forced them to give up plans to build a camp to support Greenpeace's campaign to declare the continent a world park.

"It is a prudent withdrawal and without a doubt we will be back next summer to build the camp," Mr Wilkinson said.

# Women vote woman in

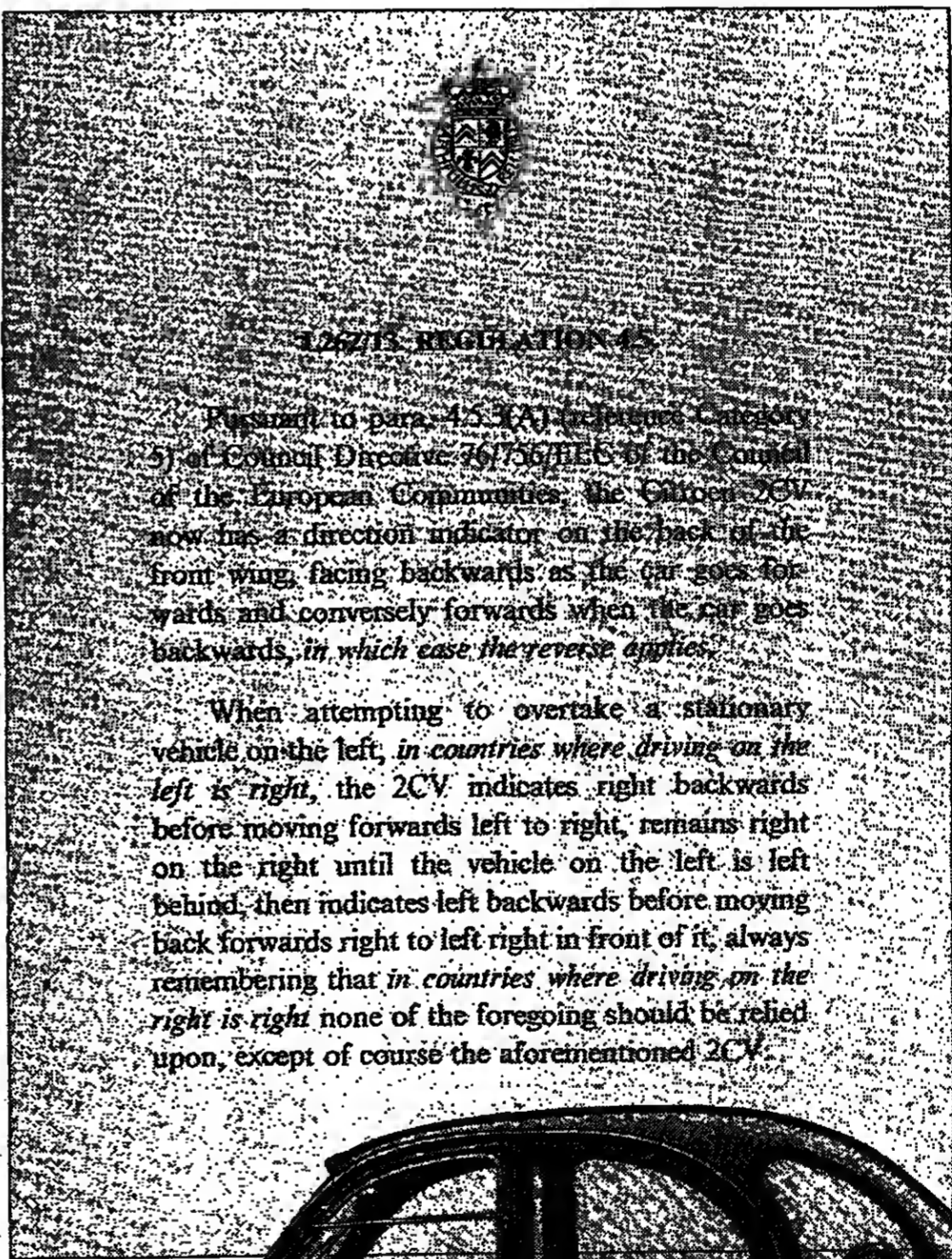
Vaduz, Liechtenstein (UPI) - Women who voted here for the first time at the weekend promptly helped to elect the first woman to Liechtenstein's 15-member Parliament.

Men in the 27,000-strong principality, wedged between Switzerland and Austria, voted in 1984 to give women their say in national elections. The composition of the new

Parliament was unchanged. The National Union Party kept power with eight seats and the People's Progressive Party stayed in opposition with seven seats.

Mrs Emma Elgenmann, the first female deputy, belongs to the opposition.

A new Liberal Party failed to win the eight per cent of all votes required for representation.



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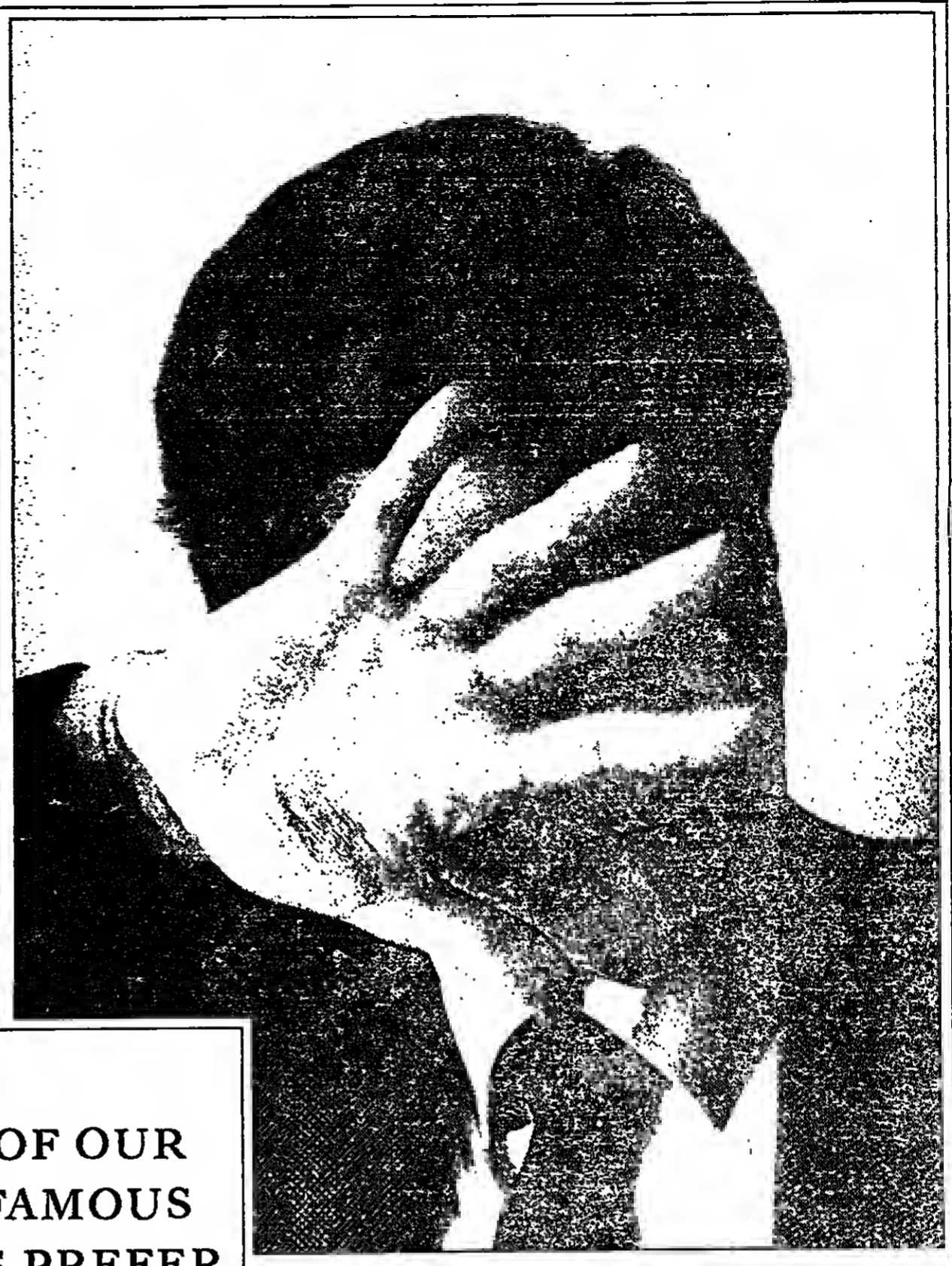
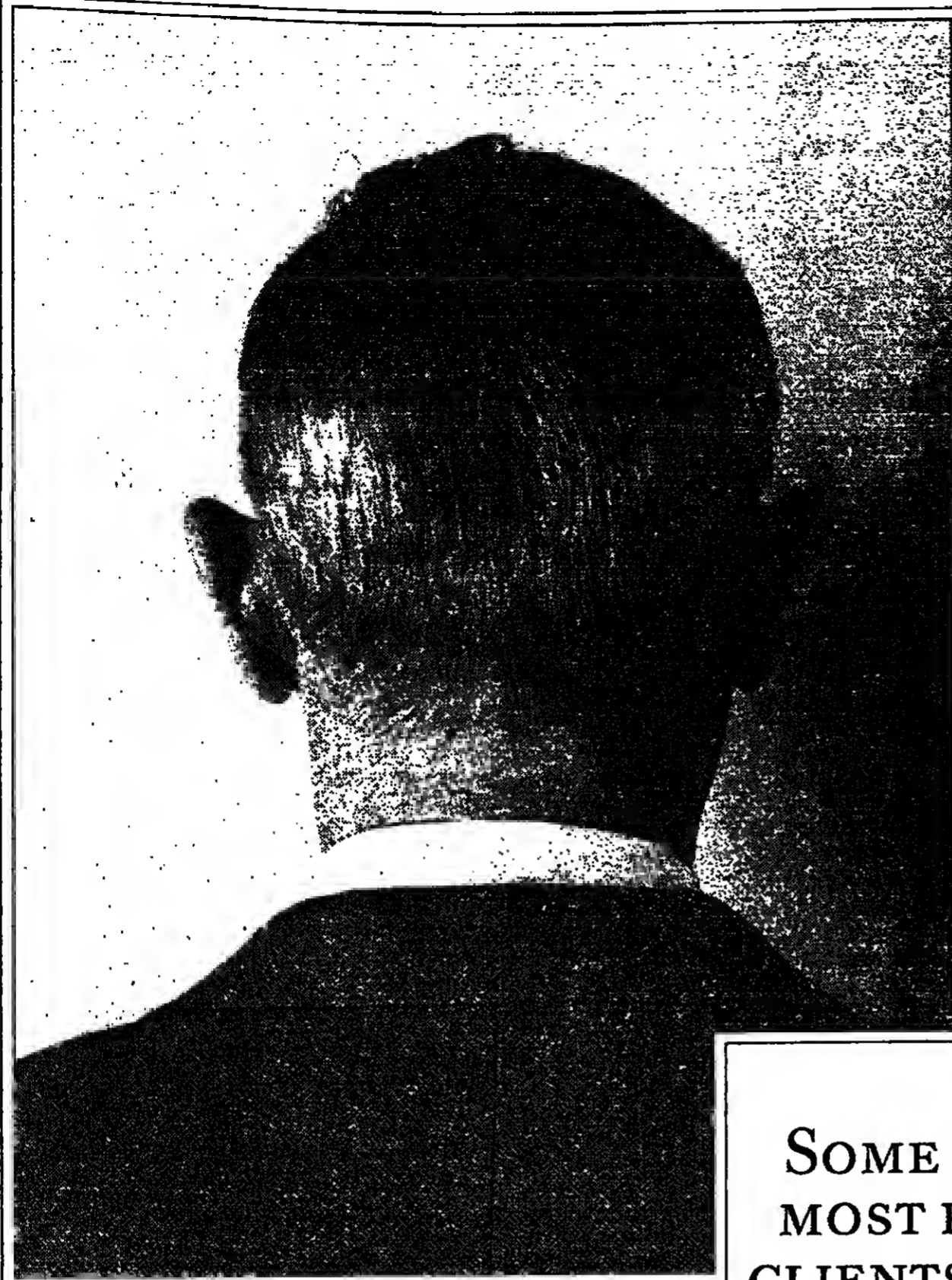
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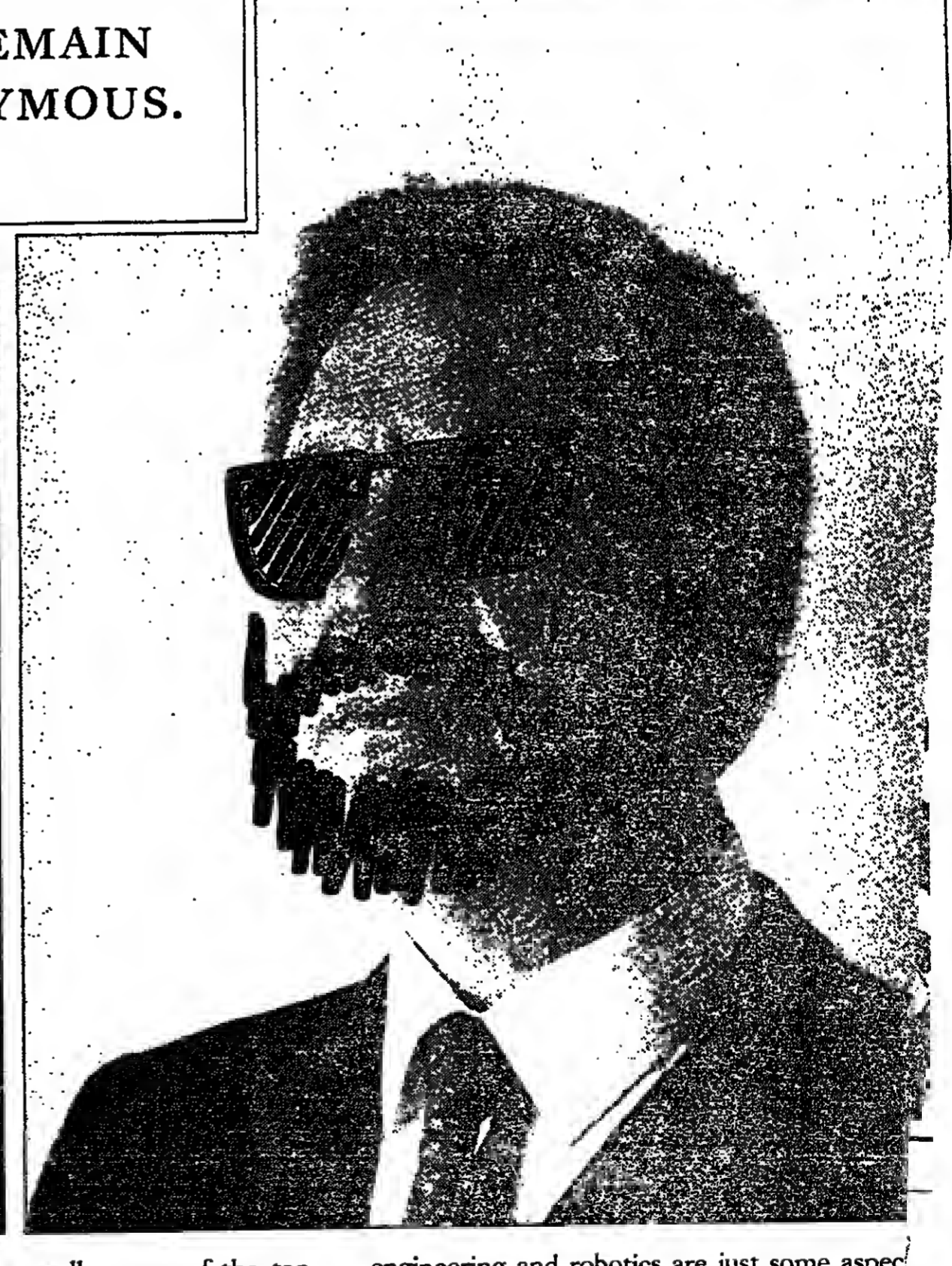
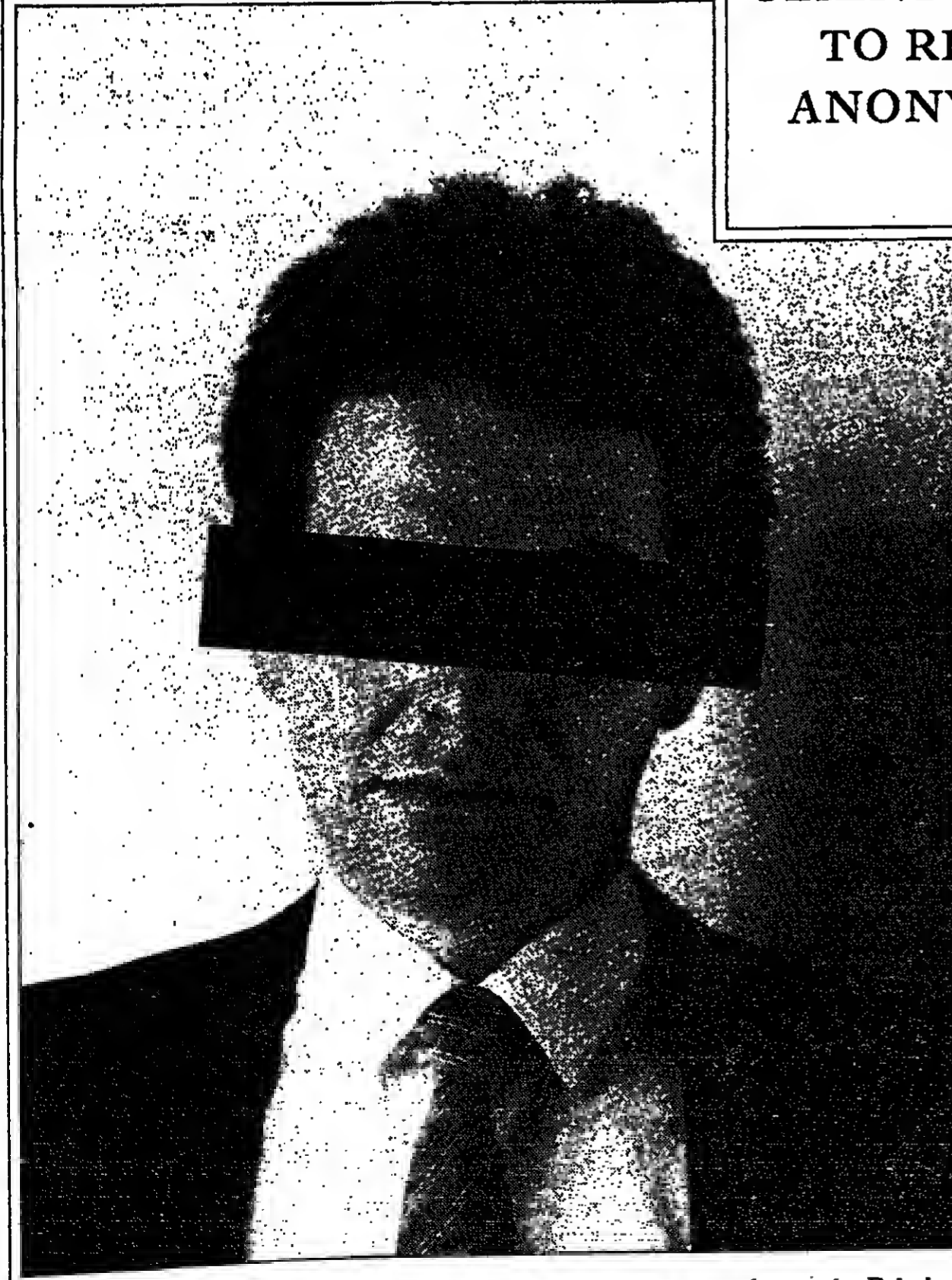
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FASHION by Suzy Menkes

Paris: Re-vive La Différence

Fashion's battle between the sexes is over. The conjunction of the couture and menswear collections in Paris offers a unique opportunity to assess the shape of high fashion in the middle years of the 1980s.

Yes Saint Laurent, the king of Paris couture, whose collection last week was the summit of perfection, is distancing himself from his own ready-to-wear.

patterned to look like Chanel tweed, and strict shantung suits or trim dresses touched with white pique.

The message was fit and shape with seam marking the bust and waist of jackets. Saint Laurent, who put women in trousers for city life, has all but abandoned them in favour of sophisticated short skirts.

pleats and drapes were a strong story here and Ungaro's frankly feminine dresses, clinging and caressing the body, seemed a world away from the androgynous and oversized clothes that started their pugnacious parade through the earlier 1980s.



The naked ape - broad chest and shoulders, a defined middle and narrow hips - is the shape of men's fashion. Pretty boy clothes and over-size separates have been abandoned for tailoring.



Jersey for men is the big fabric story, but jacquard and tweed are also used for a sportier image. Jeff Sayre produced husky sweaters with geometric patterns that seemed to grow out of his tweeds.

CUT ABOVE The hour glass silhouette of the female woman was expressed most dramatically in Ungaro's shapely sheath (right). This is where the skills of haute couture - the art of cutting, draping on the bias and inserting pleats, challenges ready-to-wear.



RISEING SON Christian Vadim, (left) the craggy young son of French film actress Catherine Deneuve and director Roger Vadim, was star model at the Dior menswear show.

L'EXPRESSIONS LIRE Invite you to Buy or Sell your own Designer Clothes at 32 Englands Lane Hampstead NW3 4UE. Exclusive designs welcome 01-595 3931

Advertisement for Phillips Blenstock House. It features two images of silver goblets and text that reads: 'IT PAYS TO SELL SILVER AT PHILLIPS. Late last year we advertised the items for inclusion in our sale of silver and plate. Many people replied and as a result the many are now happily better off including the owner of those two goblets by Christ Ramsden which are part of a set of six valued £3,800.'







THE ARTS

Television Battling bugs

Superbugs versus wonder-drugs was the theme of last night's Horizon documentary on BBC2, which reported on the contamination of half the hospitals in Melbourne by a strain of staphylococcus which was resistant to almost all known antibiotics.

Galleries Lively professionalism among the primitives

Open was of a Polytechnic self-educative kind of art, most of it from amateur or Sunday painters in the locality. But, though there has been, presumably, no diminution in the gallery's crusading fervour about bringing art to the people...



Primitive or professional? — Jack Miller's Cafe (Cups of Tea) at Whitechapel; and detail from Renata Surbone's Portrait Landscape, Il sussurro, reading face and figure into natural objects

Rock ZZ Top Civic Center, Lake Charles

Although a low-profile start to their lengthy American tour, ZZ Top's performance at this small lakeside township in Louisiana was anything but understated.

John Percival reports from Monte Carlo, where ballet flourishes again Dreams made real

Once upon a time, and not so very long ago, the names Ballet and Monte Carlo were almost as closely linked as Shakespeare and Stratford.

Concerts LCS/Cleobury Festival Hall Tamás Vasary Festival Hall

Two more victims of this winter: Sunday night's conductor and tenor soloist both fell ill before the London Choral Society's Britten concert.

Theatre Fine fit in Scottish clothing Tartuffe Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh

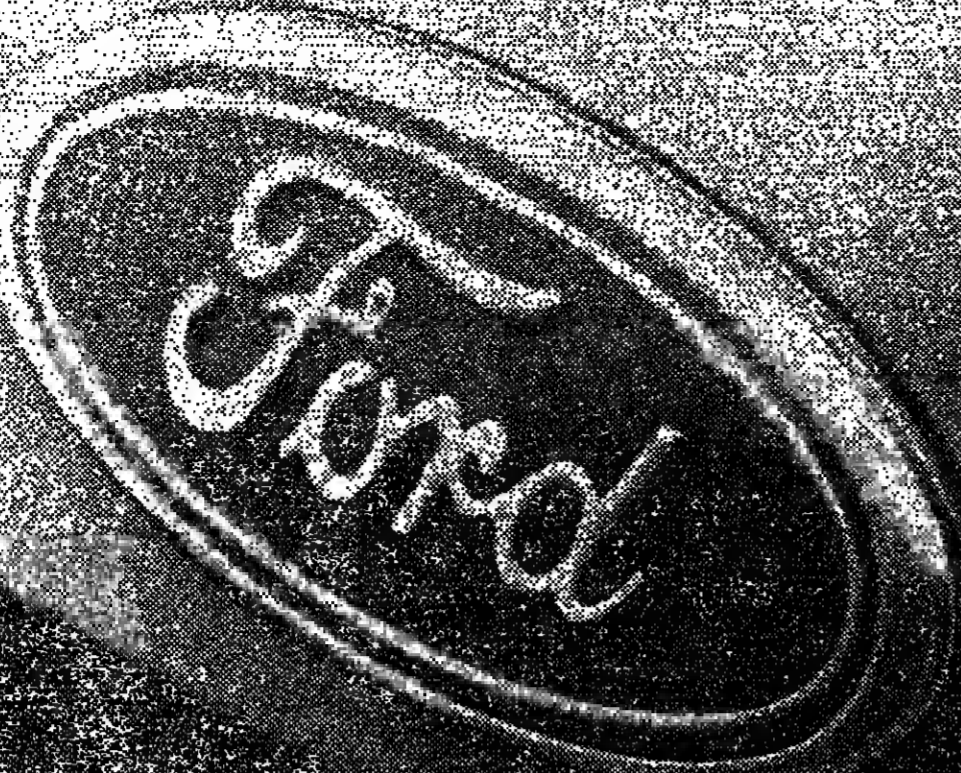
It is difficult to assess precisely why Molière seems to have adapted so successfully into Scots in the past, but he certainly has done so.

The temperature in Surrey today is 82° F. Port Antonio is in Surrey, Jamaica. And right now it's warmer than Surrey, England.

Hayward Gallery: SOUTH BANK, LONDON Information 01-261 0127. HOMOAGE TO BARCELONA including: GAUDI, PICASSO, MIRO, DALI.

The Royal Opera FAUST Charles Gounod. "Samuel Ramey's well-cast vocal prowess properly hypnotises the ear with its superb command of Gounod's devilish wailing."

divorce... \$53,000... Murdock issues new writ to Sogal... Youth accused of Brixton riots... be ignored



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 The pound... the bottom... down. It... more than 2... trade index... 4.6 overnight...  
 The pound... positions... leading... ing... 3,300... night...  
 pessimistic... from Saudi... production... responsible... fresh decline...  
 The dollar... led well... opening... mark at 2,390... Swiss franc... 2,030 (2,070).

**MONEY MARKET**  
 Rates were... higher... of a point... the sharp... made itself... falling on... money... out to the... an early... changes...  
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 Factors... appeared... more... save... figures... a sharp...



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Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Sun, Total.

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THE TIMES Portfolio

DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000. Claims required for +42 points. Claimants should ring 0254-53272.

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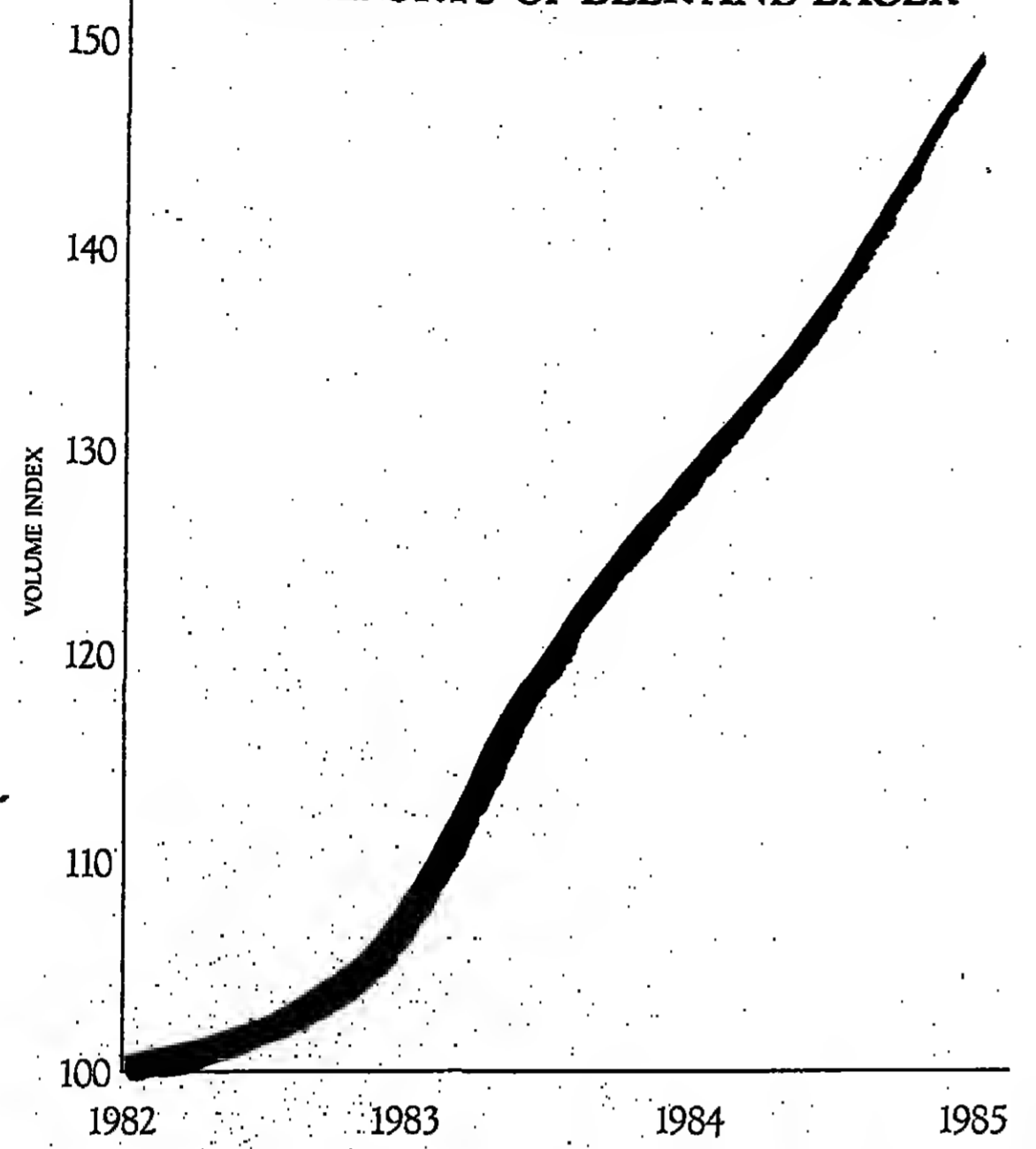
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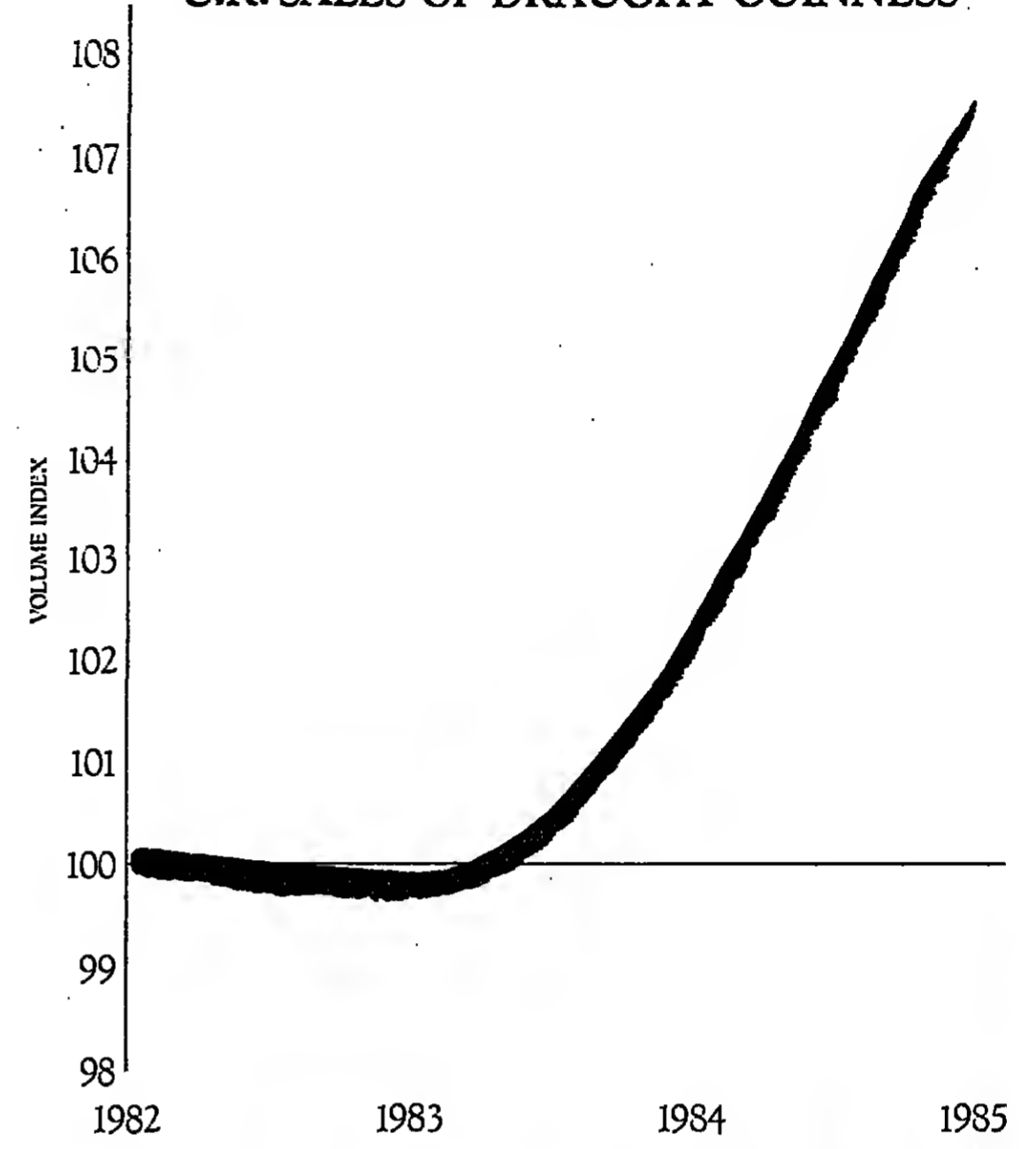
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U.K. SALES OF DRAUGHT GUINNESS



SOURCE: GUINNESS SALES DATA.

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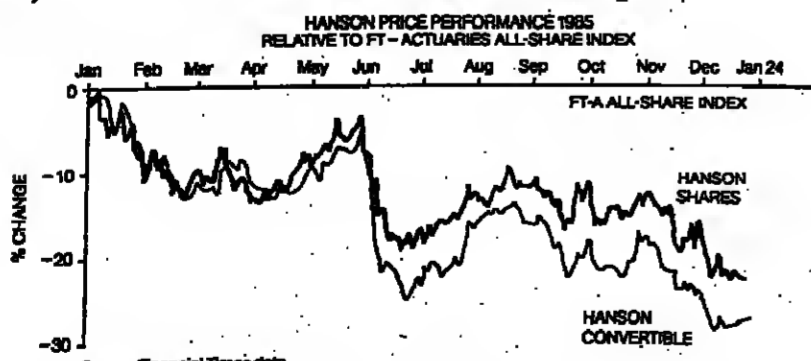
# If you want to know what to do about Hanson's 'paper,' ask Hanson's shareholders.



Last summer, when Hanson Trust's shareholders were invited to take more Hanson paper via a rights issue, they gave it a resounding 'thumbs down'.

As well they might.

Since January 1985, Hanson has issued 1,200 million new shares, and plans to



issue hundreds of millions more in its bid to take over Imperial.

No wonder the market is appearing to be suffering from acute indigestion.

The future value of this paper is questionable, too, as it depends on a rate of growth which Hanson companies alone will find very difficult to sustain.

Almost all of Hanson's companies operate in declining industries - 77% of the 1985 operating profit came from them.

The choice of companies - bricks, shoes, textiles, and batteries amongst them - is clearly a commitment to industries in decline.

And the trading performance of the long-established Hanson businesses is largely pedestrian.

Hanson's growth rate can therefore only be sustained by 'buying' profit. It has to make more and more acquisitions; something that becomes increasingly difficult as each one needs to be bigger than the last.

What's more, in 1985 Hanson paper performed dismally, falling some 20% compared with the FT All-Share index.

Against this record, in the same year, Imperial shares outperformed the index by some 25%.

And since 1981, Imperial profits have more than doubled.

Behind Imperial shares is over £1.5 billion of shareholders' net assets, and famous brands such as Courage Best, Hofmeister, John Smith's Bitter, Ross, Golden Wonder, Lea & Perrins, John Player Special and Superkings.

We believe Hanson can bring no industrial or commercial advantages to us at all.

So if you want to know what to do about Hanson's offer, the answer is: Hands off.



The directors of Imperial Group plc (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate. The directors accept responsibility accordingly.

# Full ahead to the big shows

The building of the National Exhibition Centre could be likened to a plan to launch a new ship into the teeth of a hurricane.

It faced strenuous opposition from a pro-London lobby who began operating a decade ago at a time of high inflation, political uncertainty and industrial decline, with a ferocious recession looming.

Few people were inclined to take kindly to a largely council-funded project that was to require a capital investment of £50 million, located on a greenfield site outside Birmingham, 100 miles from the exhibition centres of London, if its chances of success seemed remote even before it started.

There were those who would happily have seen the NEC strangled at birth. Against that background the centre had to fight for its first business and try to carve out a living — and a reputation — in the highly competitive world of British and European exhibitions.

Ten years on, the NEC is making money and has established itself as the country's largest exhibition location, at 105,000 square metres twice the size of London's Earl's Court — its nearest UK rival — and the tenth largest in western Europe.

A master plan has been evolved to double its size by the year 2004 to take it further up the European league and put it in contention to stage some of the blockbuster European exhibitions which bring prestige and vital foreign earnings and recognition, although it will still be a long way behind the massive 471,000 square metres on offer in Hannover.

In 1984-85, from an income of £25 million, the centre made a record trading surplus of about £9.3 million

and, after operating costs and debt charges had been paid, contributed £3 million to Birmingham's rate fund, repaying the early faith shown in the idea of a national exhibition complex by leaders of the then Birmingham Corporation and chamber of commerce and industry, which fought for a local site as long ago as 1969.

Those financial results were achieved in a peak year in what is considered a four-year cycle of exhibition business at the NEC. In 1985-86, the total income is expected to be £32 million, the repayment of debts £6.5 million and the contribution to the rate fund £1.2 million.

Behind the NEC's record is the multi-purpose range of facilities available in its nine halls and elsewhere on site, its location on the motorway network and alongside an international airport and railway station and a winning mix of events. They include trade and public exhibitions and shows, conventions, product launches, concerts and sports events.

### It attracts millions of visitors a year

Each year it attracts three million visitors and the spin-off to the deeply depressed local economy is estimated at £60 million a year.

All but £1.5 million of the £50 million capital invested in the NEC on its site on the eastern outskirts of Birmingham was raised by Birmingham City Council.

The NEC Company that sprang from the early partnership between civic and business leaders now manages and promotes the centre.

Terry Golding, the chief executive, realizes that the first decade could easily have



The centre, showing its large, lakeside site, is set, Terry Golding, chief executive of the NEC. "We have answered all those who said it would not work"

been a nightmare. He said: "Who would have chosen to open when we did, at a time of hyper inflation, just before the big recession and on farm land in the middle of nowhere?"

"I think we have answered all the dismal jonas who said it would not work by establishing a good, profitable and sound business with enormous potential for the future."

Mr Golding, who did the same job at Earl's Court and Olympia before he joined the NEC eight years ago, added: "It has been a resounding success. We have settled into a regular calendar of regular events and our consultants believe that given relatively modest growth in the economy, we will be required to double in size to meet demand at peak times in the future."

Probably the most successful event at the NEC is the British International Motor Show. The centre signed a 10-year deal to stage the crowd-pulling show every

competitive business. We see Earl's Court, Olympia and places like Harrogate and Manchester as breeding grounds for the NEC. If smaller shows are successful elsewhere, they look for larger venues and we have the space to house them."

Future success, though, demands that the NEC looks to the European scene. At the moment it does not have the space to compete for the blockbusters that fill European exhibition halls, such as ITMA, the international textile machinery exhibition and EMO, the international machine-tool event.

That is why the master plan to double in size by the turn of the century is vital, but the scheme to expand to such a degree north of the centre is bogged down, temporarily Mr Golding believes, because West Midlands County Council has its own plan to build a high-technology industrial park.

Should the council get its way, it would frustrate plans for additional car parking space and hotel accommodation which are an integral part of the planned future growth.

There are other exciting prospects ahead for the next few years, in particular Birmingham's bid to stage the 1992 Olympic Games, which is no longer regarded as unrealistically optimistic. Birmingham's success in sweeping aside rival bids from London and Manchester was achieved largely because of the facilities available at the NEC for staging many Olympic indoor events and its proposal for an Olympic Village and a 70,000-seat Olympic Stadium on site, all within a secure perimeter fence.

The International Olympic Committee will decide in October which of the international bids for the 1992 Games will succeed. Mr Golding commented: "The Olympic Games — now that would be a feather in our cap."

International recognition is crucial and in 1984 about 2,700 of the 12,800 companies exhibiting at the NEC were from overseas, creating an estimated £15 million worth of invisible earnings for Britain.

Nevertheless, there are periods of inactivity in the exhibition calendar so the NEC has its own exhibition and events division, an entrepreneurial arm consisting of a team of organizers whose job is to identify overseas areas of business and pioneer new shows. The 10 that have been developed now contribute about 8.5 per cent of the centre's gross income.

Other exhibition centres in the country are also intent on new ideas and new shows. Mr Golding said: "It is a very

# The ace card is access

The greatest obstacle that appeared to confront the NEC in its planning stage was the proposed location — a greenfield site on the eastern rim of Birmingham, Britain's second city, 100 miles from the crowd-pulling attractions of London that were a magnet for exhibitors and their customers.

Ten years on that location is now overwhelmingly regarded as a great advantage and the centre's marketing officials promote "ease of access" for all its worth.

On one day during the Motor Show at the NEC, 120,000 visitors poured into its massive halls. The car parks were jammed with 15,000 cars, 1,000 exhibitor's vehicles and 800 coaches. Inter-city trains deposited countless thousands of passengers at the modern railway station adjacent to the complex. That was a record day.

Apparently the executives who operate the even larger exhibition centre at Dusseldorf now describe the NEC as "the centre of the short walk", not simply for its location alongside Birmingham International Airport and the main-line railway station, but also because its huge exhibition halls are inter-linked.

The NEC is only a stone's throw from the M6 and M42 and is at the heart of the motorway system. An estimated 28 million people live within 100 miles of the complex, which covers 400 acres.

Of the nine "halls", two are promoted for purposes other than simple exhibition space.

Hall 7 is better known as Birmingham International Arena. It has a clear span interior and tiered seating for 12,000 spectators. Neil Diamond, Diana Ross and other superstars of the pop world have played to packed audiences there, while British Telecom, at its first annual general meeting since privatization, entertained a more modest gathering of 4,000 shareholders.

A £250,000 demountable ice rink has now been commissioned and its first expected use will be by Torville and Dean during SportAid, a Bob Geldof-style event to help famine victims in Africa, scheduled for May.

Hall 8, known as the Forum, is a 4,000 square metre "black box" facility from which natural light is excluded in order to appeal to the organisers of private, corporate presentations and ritzy product launches.

The NEC has two on-site hotels, the Birmingham Metropole and Warwick, offering 700 rooms. The Metropole has a conference centre for 1,200 delegates and 1,000 banqueting guests with 34 meeting rooms and a 200-seat cinema.

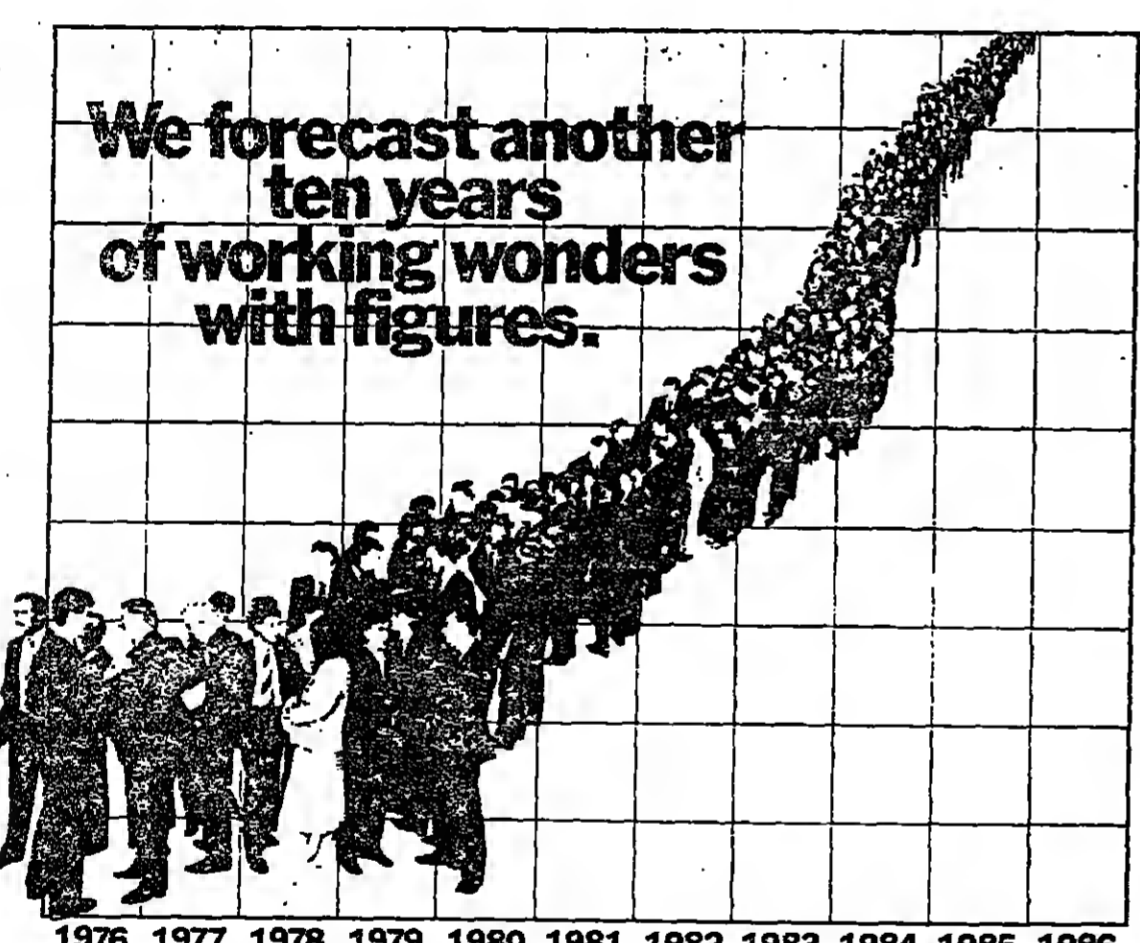
John Cole, the NEC's marketing manager, said: "Accessibility is really our ace card, an almost unique amalgam of road, rail and air facilities in a central position."

At the recent Interplas Exhibition, an international plastics show, 26 per cent of the visitors arrived from 103 overseas countries. The airport and the NEC complex by the revolutionary Maglev "hover train" passenger transit system.

The new £60 million terminal at the airport was opened in 1984 — an improvement which was largely attributed to the increasing business at the NEC.

Scheduled "business" destinations from Birmingham now include Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Hanover, Munich, Paris, Geneva, Milan and Zurich and all major British airports. Air France is now operating a daily Paris service; Netherlands flies to Amsterdam and Lufthansa starts services from next month.

The Birmingham International railway station has 80 minute services linked to London and connects with Birmingham city in less than 20 minutes.



Over the last decade, the NEC in Birmingham has had a magical effect on the growth of exhibitions and events, large and small. Giants like the British International Motor Show, boasting a record year in 1984, Interbuild (Britain's largest single trade event), the International Spring Fair (occupying every inch of hall space) and IPEX (a European leader in print and graphic design) have all expanded and prospered. And it's not only the big shows. Since they came to us, high-tech exhibitions such as Which Computer?, Design Engineering and Electrex have seen higher attendances every year.

We've even helped the gardeners grow.

In 10 years with us, GLEE (the Garden and Leisure Exhibition) has happily tripled its floor space.

In 1986 and 1987 we have already attracted 26 new exhibitions, convincing twelve additional organisers who previously had not brought shows to Birmingham.

Not to mention the host of product launches, sports championships, conventions and concerts that now come to us every year.

It could simply be that the NEC is the largest and yet most flexible centre of its kind in Britain. There's the 1,200-bed luxury Metropole hotel and confer-

ence centre 'on site' as well as the facilities of the Birmingham Convention and Visitor Bureau, helping to promote the NEC and the 'Big Heart of England' all over the world.

Or NEC's unique accessibility. Besides direct motorway links and our own main line station, we've recently added a fine international airport terminal with fast increasing overseas services.

Perhaps it's because we've just spent another £5 million on improving the centre and developed a stunning 'black box' stage-setting ideal for product launches.

Or maybe it's because we can organise shows as well as stage them. The talented professionals in our Exhibitions and Events Division are helping to invigorate a series of successful new shows.

In September 85, British Telecom called on us to host Britain's biggest ever Annual General Meeting. And, this year, we are the focal point of Britain's forceful bid for the 1992 Olympic Games.

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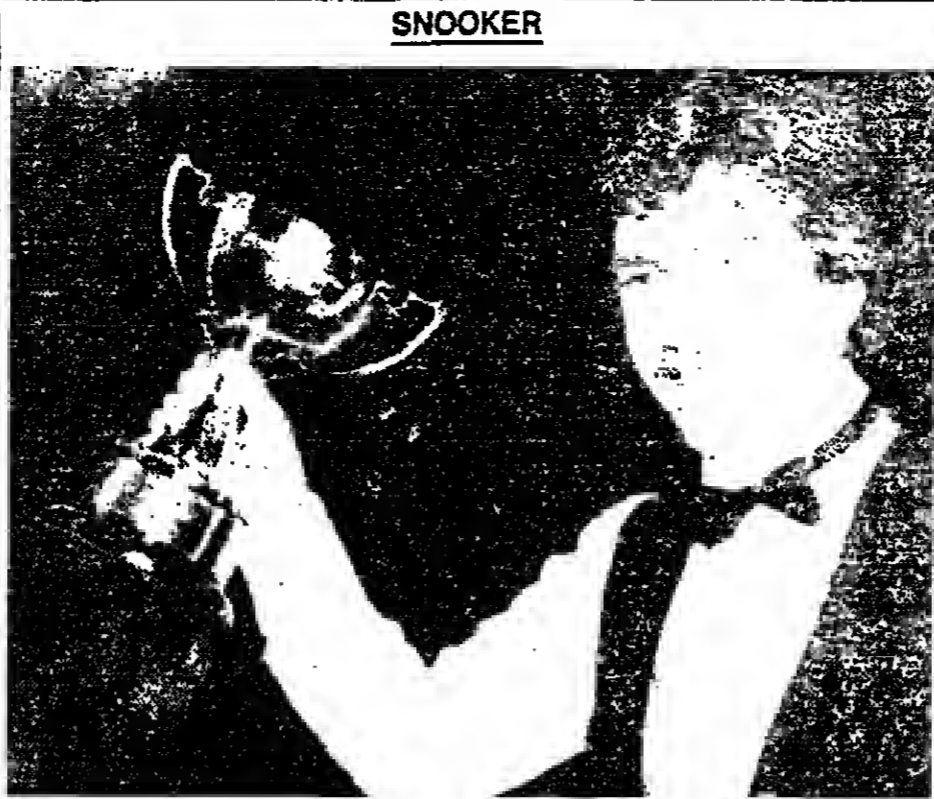
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SNOOKER



Three times a winner: the triumphant Cliff Thorburn holds his Masters trophy aloft

Masters' winner Thorburn takes aim at the world title

By Sydney Friskin
Cliff Thorburn left London by air yesterday morning to rejoin his family in Toronto after retaining the Benson & Hedges Masters snooker title at Wembley on Sunday night.

ICE HOCKEY

A leading Hand in Racers' victory

By a Correspondent
The premier division of the Heineken League had an unusual weekend in that there was no change of position among the top six clubs.

BASKETBALL

US star is accused of getting lenient deal from referees

By Nicholas Harling
Team Polycell Kingston go to Portsmouth tomorrow for a match that is certain to have a vital bearing on the Carlsberg National League Championship with their star American guard.

RUGBY UNION

Scots unlikely to ring the changes against England

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent
The wise men of Scotland and Ireland will put their heads together today after seeing their teams beaten in the five nations championship at the weekend.

Brilliant loser White plays with style of a champion

Alex Higgins, with his dash and frantic brilliance, did more than any other player to create the snooker boom. He showed us all that snooker need not be a game for sordid old men who trundle the cue ball back into bank with expressions of idiot satisfaction.

Yorkshire have six in England squad

By David Hands
Six of the Yorkshire players who helped Kent in the final of the county colts championship have been named in the England squad of 28 which meets for training in Birmingham this weekend.

HOCKEY

N Zealand are first opponents

By Sydney Friskin
To mark the centenary of the Hockey Association, the sixth World Cup will be held at the Wilsden Stadium in London from April 4-10.

Mueller takes his first win of the season

His victory allowed Mueller to take the lead in the overall World Cup standings, jumping from fifth place to overtake last year's winner, Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg, who finished outside the first 15 yesterday.

Bobsleighting

Phipps poised for final challenge

From Chris Moore, Lake Placid
Nick Phipps, near the end of a season that has promised so much for British bobsleighting, goes into this week's final round of the World Cup in Lake Placid with more medals still within his grasp.

Youth have chance to claim a place at top

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent
The retirement of Susan Barker and Virginia Wade in tennis has left a vacuum at the top for the young women of British tennis.



Cup chance: Brown (left) and Gomer

Midlands shock North

By Peter Tatlow
Midlands caused the second flutter in two days when they came within an ace of beating North during the first weekend of the All England Territorial championships at Harrogate.

Harris back in Welsh squad

Wales have announced their players for 1986. Unlike England they have named the full squad of 16, five of whom will join the B squad of 11 and play in the international B team's tournament in Manchester on February 21-22.

Mrs Lloyd wins again

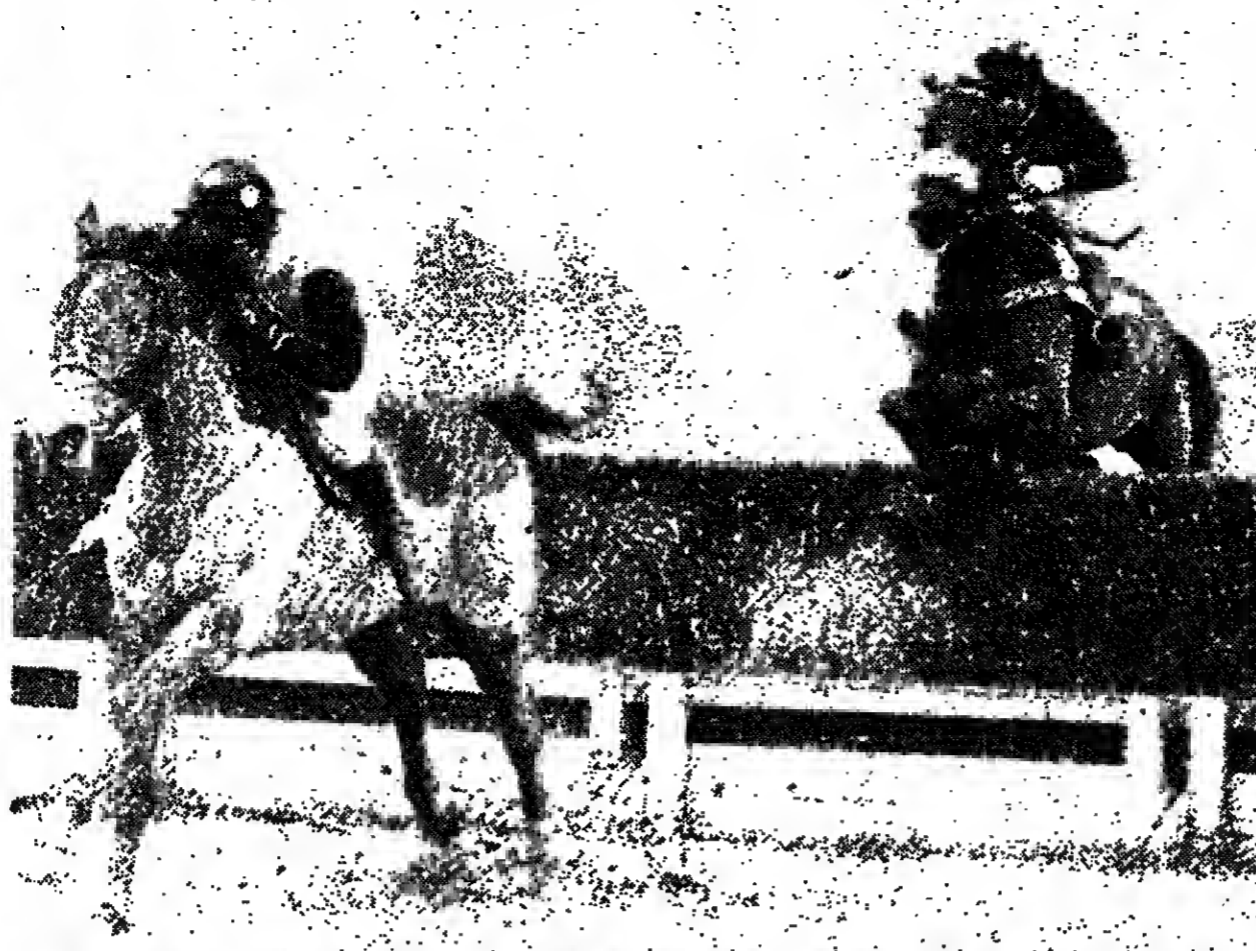
Key Biscaïne, Florida (AP) - Chris Lloyd, of the United States, used her recently developed strength to take the sting out of Steffi Graf's power strokes and claim a 6-3, 6-1, victory in the final of the \$250,000 (£178,000) Virginia Slims tournament on Sunday.

RACING
Royscar should make most of favourable conditions

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

With Mr Snugfit declared for the Stanwick Handicap Chase at Carlisle this afternoon...

improvement was to be gleaned at Newton Abbot on Boxing Day when he finished second to Broadheart...



Graiguenamagh takes the last behind Cressan before winning Footwell's Bogno Regis Chase (Photo: Ian Stewart)

My Dominion boosts Festival claim

My Dominion, carrying the colours of Terry Ransford for the first time, took his winning sequence to five in the bet...

Mark Pitman, who rode Dan Raise for his mother, Jenny, described the ground as "hopeless". He brought Dan Raise on the outside...

WARWICK

Going soft.
1.30 RYTON NOVICE HURDLE (£1,518; 2m) (25 runners)
1101 CLEARLY BUST (C. Haines) 6-11-13 O Hood (7)

CARLISLE

Going heavy.
1.15 KINGMOOR HANDICAP CHASE (£1,192.2m) (8 runners)
2033-PP SNOW BLESSED (C. Alexander) 6-11-10 O Dunro

DEFENCE

Where a defendant was charged with reckless driving, and the acts alleged by the prosecution to amount to recklessness also amounted to a defence...

Warwick selections

By Mandarin.
1.30 Clearly Bust. 2.0 Raibow Lady. 2.30 ROYSCAR (nap). 3.0 Lafosse. 3.30 Fudge Delight. 4.0 Siobhan's Joy. 4.30 All totent.

Carlisle selections

By Mandarin.
1.15 Ivacov. 1.45 Golden Flyer. 2.15 Joe's Fancy. 2.45 Vale Of Serenity. 3.15 The Thinker. 3.45 Mr Chris.

Justices can override counsel's wishes

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Skynner) so held on January 29, dismissing the applications for judicial review by way of certiorari...

Fontwell results

1.30 Clearly Bust. 2.0 Raibow Lady. 2.30 ROYSCAR (nap). 3.0 Lafosse. 3.30 Fudge Delight. 4.0 Siobhan's Joy. 4.30 All totent.

Wolverhampton

GOING: Chase Course, good to soft.
1.45 (2m) DAN RAISE (M. Pines) 3-1-2. 2. (2m) LUNA (M. Pines) 3-1-2.

Attempts to buy time

Administrative measures would be taken to list them at the earliest possible opportunity. The Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Skynner and Mr Justice Woolf) so stated on January 27...

Damages awarded to train driver after accident

Wigg v British Railways Board. Mr Justice Tucker. A train driver was entitled to succeed in his claim for damages for shock and trauma suffered when he came upon the body of a person very soon after it had been struck down...

His Lordship derived from McLaughlin v O'Brien (1983) 1 AC 410 the principles which apply to a claim for nervous shock caused by negligence...

It was reasonably foreseeable by the defendant that the driver would behave as he did, by policy considerations but on their own merits...

The defendants conceded it was foreseeable a driver would get out of his cab, would help to search for the body, might come across the victim and be distressed by what he saw...

The train was brought to a halt by the emergency brakes after it had travelled about 200 carriage lengths. The victim was attempting to board the train as it moved off...

The plaintiff searched the track and found the victim whom he unwittingly believed was alive; he began to speak to him to comfort him until help arrived...

Defence should have been left to jury

Regina v Renouf. Where a defendant was charged with reckless driving, and the acts alleged by the prosecution to amount to recklessness also amounted to a defence...

The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Lawton, Mr Justice Holdings and Mr Justice Michael Davies) so held on January 31...

The appellant submitted that in so doing he was "using such force as [was] reasonable to the circumstances to... assisting in the lawful arrest of offenders"

Justices can override counsel's wishes

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Skynner) so held on January 29, dismissing the applications for judicial review by way of certiorari...

Attempts to buy time

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